

CHALLENGE



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No safe housing under capitalism



Displacement is a fact of life, for the working class, under this racist, sexist profit system.

INGLEWOOD, CA, September 17—A tenants' rights group and other organizers learned one more real life lesson today. This vicious, capitalist system serves the billionaire rulers. The setting was a rally protesting a press conference held in conjunction with the "ground-breaking" for a new arena for the Los Angeles Clippers basketball team. Billionaire Clippers owner Steve Ballmer, Inglewood Mayor James Butts and others celebrated the coming of one more gigantic stadium to this overwhelmingly Black and Latin working-class city. Meanwhile Inglewood cops were protecting both the press conference and shelter site being torn down a block over. Only communist revolution, where workers run society, can eliminate these racist cops and the billionaires who they serve and protect.

As with many other large cities, capitalism's sports team owners and their billionaire banking and corporate backers have realized the profit

potential of relocating these teams to brand new stadiums. In order to smooth the way for their profit-driven schemes, they have taken advantage of lousy living conditions for workers in these areas by promising thousands of new jobs. They have enlisted local politicians like Butts, many of them Black and Latin, who have enthusiastically become these projects' biggest cheerleaders.

Communism: housing for all workers

A multiracial rally of 25 chanted, "Citizen, immigrant, Black, Brown, white: against displacement we will fight", and "Stop racist gentrification, by corrupt corporations," as scores of car horns blared in solidarity.

A Progressive Labor Party (PLP) member active in the tenants union gave a speech, targeting Ballmer, the capitalists and their profit

system as the culprits behind the atrocity that we had just witnessed. He called for revolution as the only solution to gentrification, racism, displacement and homelessness. He pointed out the common interest between all workers—including homeowners, tenants, and the homeless—as he called for unity in the struggle.

Capitalist "sports/entertainment" bosses like Ballmer (net worth is \$96.1 billion) are all part of the gang-up of cops, landlords, billionaires and bankers that plague our class. Communism will bulldoze these displacers. Housing will not be bought and sold as a commodity. We will produce housing collectively and provide it to all workers based on need. Join the PLP and the fight for communism today!

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.
- ★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

Weakness of mainwing U.S. imperialists leads to fascism

As the U.S. empire crumbles from both without and within, the main wing imperialists of the U.S. ruling class seem ready to crack down on the America First bosses fronted by Donald Trump. Equating the January 6 Capitol Building insurrection to 9/11, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the insurrection an assault from “within” (Guardian, 9/17), while former President George W. Bush urged Americans to confront “violent extremists at home” (Washington Post, 9/11).

Facing a still out-of-control Covid-19 pandemic, a military debacle in Afghanistan, and a collapsing infrastructure, these Big Fascist finance capitalists are wounded and desperate—which makes them even more dangerous. They’ve been unable to rein in the more openly racist Small Fascists, who have hijacked the Republican Party and the U.S. Supreme Court, and have made serious inroads in the rank-and-file military. They’ve been unwilling to discipline their own ranks of greedy billionaires. These divisions give inter-imperialist rivals China and Russia a huge opening. And with the mainwing U.S. rulers less and less able to govern by the old rules of liberal democracy, they’re moving faster than ever toward fascism and World War III.

As capitalists scramble to protect their profits, the working class is expected to pay the price, swallow the lies, and shed the blood. But Progressive Labor Party has other plans! We call on the international working class to reject the bosses’ call for patriotism—and to counter with communist internationalism. Join us and help eradicate the deadliest virus worldwide—capitalism!

Build Back Better: fraud on the working class

The Big Fascists’ dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power, its strategic control of the Middle East, and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. As they lose ground to China, both economically and militarily, the U.S. bosses need to win the patriotic loyalty of masses of workers to fight and die in the global conflict to come.

Enter Joe Biden’s \$3.5 trillion “Build Back Better” bill. With promises to fund greener energy, broadband, highways, housing, and new jobs, the proposal is essentially a bribe to win workers to support the Big Fascists’ agenda. What remains to be seen is whether the Biden-led bosses can summon the unity and discipline needed to pass the bill.

The Small Fascist Republicans have vowed to fight the tax hikes needed to fund Biden’s bill. But the Big Fascists’ main problem is that their own ranks are unwilling to make the needed sacrifices. Senator Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat, wants to scale down the package by half—and slow the transition to clean energy. It’s no coincidence that Manchin “has personally grossed more than \$4.5 million” from the coal companies he founded in the 1980s (The Intercept, 9/3).

Leading mainstream business groups—the Chamber of Commerce, the Business Roundtable, and the National Association of Manufacturers—have also pushed back against the corporate tax hikes (modest as they would be) that Biden and the main wing need to pay for the bill (Business Insider, 3/31).

This fight exposes the short-term thinking and lack of discipline within the ruling class. But no empire falls without a fight, and the liberal bosses are likely to move to more open fascism sooner than later. They have no choice—they must unify their own class to prepare for war.

War preparation

Biden’s plan also calls for \$180 billion in new research and development for emerging technologies for the military. Without stepping up their investments and innovations for mass slaughter, the U.S. risks falling behind China and jeopardizing the bosses’ “future economic competitiveness and ... national security” (C4IS-

RNET, 3/31). In a related development, the U.S. bosses made a deal to supply Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, a clear “effort to reset the naval balance in the Pacific, as China expands its territorial claims and threatens Taiwan” (New York Times, 9/22). More broadly, the strengthening alliance known as “the Quad”—a coalition of the U.S., Australia, India, and Japan—“represents one of the most consequential challenges to Chinese ambitions in the years ahead” (foreignaffairs.com, 8/6).

But despite these attempts to “pivot” to Asia and block China’s dominance in the region, the U.S. ruling class is hobbled by division and disarray—a big factor in the accelerating decline of U.S. imperialism. More and more workers see U.S. society for what it truly is—a rotten stew of police murder, mass unemployment, and racist and sexist inequality. Capitalism will never work for workers. It cannot be fixed. The only alternative is communism, a world run by and for the international working class.

The Covid disaster

Covid-19 has been an utter disaster for the capitalist bosses and Exhibit A for why they are unfit to run society. With the Delta variant on the rampage and the pandemic death toll once again exceeding 2,000 a day, Big Fascist media like the New York Times are blaming Small Fascist Republican governors who have rejected mask mandates and other common-sense public health measures.

But the biggest problem for the finance capitalists is the incompetence and mixed messaging of their own institutions, like the Centers for Disease Control and the Food & Drug Administration, which have caved to political and business interests in “getting America back to work.” Meanwhile, liberal politicians like New York Mayor Bill de Blasio are recklessly pushing millions of students into crowded school buildings, less than fully vaccinated teaching staffs, and vague safety protocols (Chalkbeat 8/21, Pix11 8/19).

Vaccine and mask mandates represent the Big Fascists’ attempt to discipline their class and win workers—but the strategy isn’t working. Without the staff or facilities for smaller classes, teachers and students know that social distancing rules are a joke. At the same time, many workers have been swayed by anti-science rhetoric as well as rightful mistrust in the government wand are refusing to get vaccinated.

As a result, the pandemic rages on. Millions of workers worldwide have lost their jobs and are facing homelessness, eviction, even starvation. Many lack even basic healthcare or access to testing or vaccines. The global pandemic is not a “natural” disaster. It is proof positive that capitalism must be smashed with communist revolution.

Great danger and opportunity

Under communism, workers would be ensured access to vaccines, treatment, and preventative health that would have contained the pandemic long before it killed millions around the globe. Without the profit motive, scientists would work for the betterment of humanity, rather than depending on corporate funding. Workers would take sick days without fear of losing their jobs or being unable to provide for their families. All workers—and healthcare workers most of all—would have the protective equipment they need to do their jobs safely.

As the capitalist world grows increasingly unstable, the working class is entering a period of great danger and opportunity. The danger is the threat of world war inching closer as the U.S. empire nears the brink of collapse. The opportunity is to smash this racist, sexist system and turn imperialist war into a class war for workers’ power. Capitalism is the true pandemic, and communism is the only cure. Join PLP and place another nail in the bosses’ coffin.☛

MD: residents fight racist displacement



Fight for communism, a system where all workers have safe, decent, and free housing because we, the working class, will run things!

Langley Park, MD, September 13—Obremos, unidos, jamas seren vencidos” rang out from the voices of 25 residents of Bedford Station, anti-racist organizers, and members of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP). “The workers united will never be defeated.”

The rally was against the racist development and rezoning plan for the new Purple Line transit rail. The rezoning plans will allow construction of exorbitant, high density buildings that will displace longtime residents, thousands of whom are immigrant workers from Central America. The liberal politicians here prove again that they are no friends of the working class.

The mainly-Latin residents (84 percent) have waged a yearlong rent strike and sued the landlords who are letting their homes deteriorate as they wait on a big payoff with new buildings. PLP

members have joined them to present a petition to HUD (Housing and Urban Development) in Washington DC. We have helped individuals apply for emergency rent assistance, and have brought supporters along with art supplies, CHALLENGEs, and revolutionary enthusiasm to the rallies. Despite the bold sustained struggle by these workers, settling for reforms is a never-ending treadmill. Joining the revolutionary communist movement, the PLP, is a needed next step in the fight.

Drive for profit

The Purple Line is a 16-mile light rail line that will extend from Bethesda in Montgomery County to New Carrollton in Prince George's County. The private company that is building it has already sucked \$3 million more than originally planned from the state budget. Negotiations with the state of Maryland have delayed construction but now

the work is proceeding in earnest and developers are salivating to convince the County government to create new zoning regulations.

The draft regulations do not guarantee any affordable housing. The rent hikes will displace residents. Three residents who have been in these apartments for as long as 30 years explained how the zoning will affect them and their families. Nearby shopping areas and transportation will be dramatically changed for affluent new residents.

No safe place under capitalism

The wretched, racist conditions in Langley Park apartments were only worsened by the still-raging Covid-19 pandemic. Tenants had been complaining about old and decaying ceilings for years. One building was declared uninhabitable by the fire department. “When Covid-19 struck, many residents lost their jobs and couldn’t make rent. At least 14 households [at one building] have received eviction notices” (NPR Station WAMU 88.5, 4/1). This is all under the Democratic Party leadership of county executive Angela D. Alsobrooks, a Black woman prosecutor. The liberal racists posture as the lesser evil when they function as the greater danger for working-class victory.

According to this local nonprofit, Langley Park has one of the highest concentrations of undocumented workers in the county. These workers tried to escape imperialist-induced horrors in Central America only to be met with more racist disregard by the same bosses. The U.S.’s list of horrors includes dominating the economies to create more profits off of the super exploitation of workers, funding coups to oust governments that threaten their interest, maintaining sweatshop labor, and more. These racist conditions demonstrate there is no safe place under capitalism.

Limits of legislation

This nonprofit also organized to overturn Governor Hogan’s veto of new legislation that would have marginally helped community members. PL’ers discussed how the bosses’ legislative games keep people locked away from the need to build a revolutionary communist movement to eliminate capitalism and its pro-profit rules. As we increase our distribution of CHALLENGEs to residents, we bring our message to more and more workers🔥

LA: No safe housing under capitalism



Continued from page 1

Workers denounce racist gentrification

The rally was led by young Latin workers and included a speech by a tenant from Inglewood Gardens (IG), an apartment complex across the street from the newly-opened LA Rams/Chargers So-Fi Stadium. So-Fi is less than a mile from where the Clippers’ “Dome” is going up. This tenant talked about the refusal of the IG slumlord owner to repair multiple lousy and dangerous conditions in the apartment where he and his wife live. He also called out the disregard from the Inglewood Code Enforcement (CE) unit. After he filed a complaint, a CE inspector called and told him they have “no power” to make the landlord fix any of the con-

ditions, forcing the couple to continue to live in squalor.

Meanwhile the cops were supervising the displacement of yet one more homeless individual. We marched to where it was happening. The group loudly confronted the cops and demolition as everything the homeless person owned was thrown away. Knowing that this homeless person would later return to find all of their belongings gone, we demanded that the cops and city provide them with housing and services. They responded by simply driving away. Whether it’s cops or Code Enforcement inspectors, the government serves the ruling capitalists. They will forever fail to meet the needs of the working class; capitalism was built for profit, not the for security for our class.

Racist thieves, not “job creators”

Inglewood became an industrial center during

and after World War II, particularly for aerospace and military production. As factory bosses began moving these jobs out of the city in the 1960s, and 1970s, white workers also began moving out. The population of first Black, and later Latin workers, increased. Mass racist unemployment started increasing in the 1970s and 1980s. By 2000, Inglewood was 93 percent Black and Latin. Combined with deteriorating conditions in public schools and services due to massive, racist state budget cuts, conditions for workers became unbearable with poverty and homelessness.

Ballmer’s puppet politicians have touted the new stadiums as “job-creators.” But all of this new “development” has driven up property values and rents far beyond the reach of many workers, and attracted investment company vultures, which scoop up “distressed” properties and force out homeowners. In Inglewood, resistance to these anti-working class attacks has grown. The Lennox/Inglewood Tenants’ Union (LITU) has been one of the groups at the forefront.

PLP members in LITU have helped give political and tactical leadership to its campaigns, including organizing tenants at IG. In a very positive development, several tenant union members took the initiative to organize and help lead the rally today. This can be the stuff of what communism is made of—workers organizing every aspect of society. Organizers and antiracists in this struggle are welcomed to join PLP! 🔥

‘Hoops for Justice’ serves our class

BROOKLYN, August 28—For the eighth time in nine years the families of Shantel Davis and Kimani Gray joined with neighbors, friends, community organizations and the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) to offer a different kind of basketball tournament to the Black youth of East Flatbush—Hoops for Justice.

Shantel and Kimani were killed by killer kkkops working out of the 67th precinct. In the weeks and months after Shantel’s death in June of 2012, PLP members built a base with her family in the process of organizing street marches to the precinct. When Kimani was killed in March of 2013, a significant youth rebellion ensued along the same stretch of Church Avenue where our demonstrations had taken place over the prior months. Hoops for Justice emerged as an annual event to continue the struggle in memory of Shantel and Kimani.

A hallmark of this tournament and the whole fight by this group of families for justice for their loved ones has been to rely on the working class. This reliance on the working class has let all of us see the beginnings of a communist workers led society. A society that we are fighting to put in place by organizing for communist revolution.

A tournament that puts the working class first

A wet start to the day could not dampen the enthusiasm that dozens of young people brought to this now-familiar summer affair. Other tournaments proceeded this summer as if Covid-19 did not exist, similar to how Mayor Bill de Blasio has opened the city’s schools. These money-making basketball operations showed a disregard for the health of working-class youth in much the same way that the de Blasio school reopening plan was meant to keep the profit-making NYC economy going. Not Hoops for Justice.

Our leadership committee for the tournament engaged in a sharp struggle over the nature of the coronavirus and the urgent need for vaccination. Loved ones of Shantel and Kimani brought a rock-solid determination that this year’s event must go on.

PLP guaranteed that a consistent message that testing and vaccination are a crucial piece of the back to school routine was delivered.

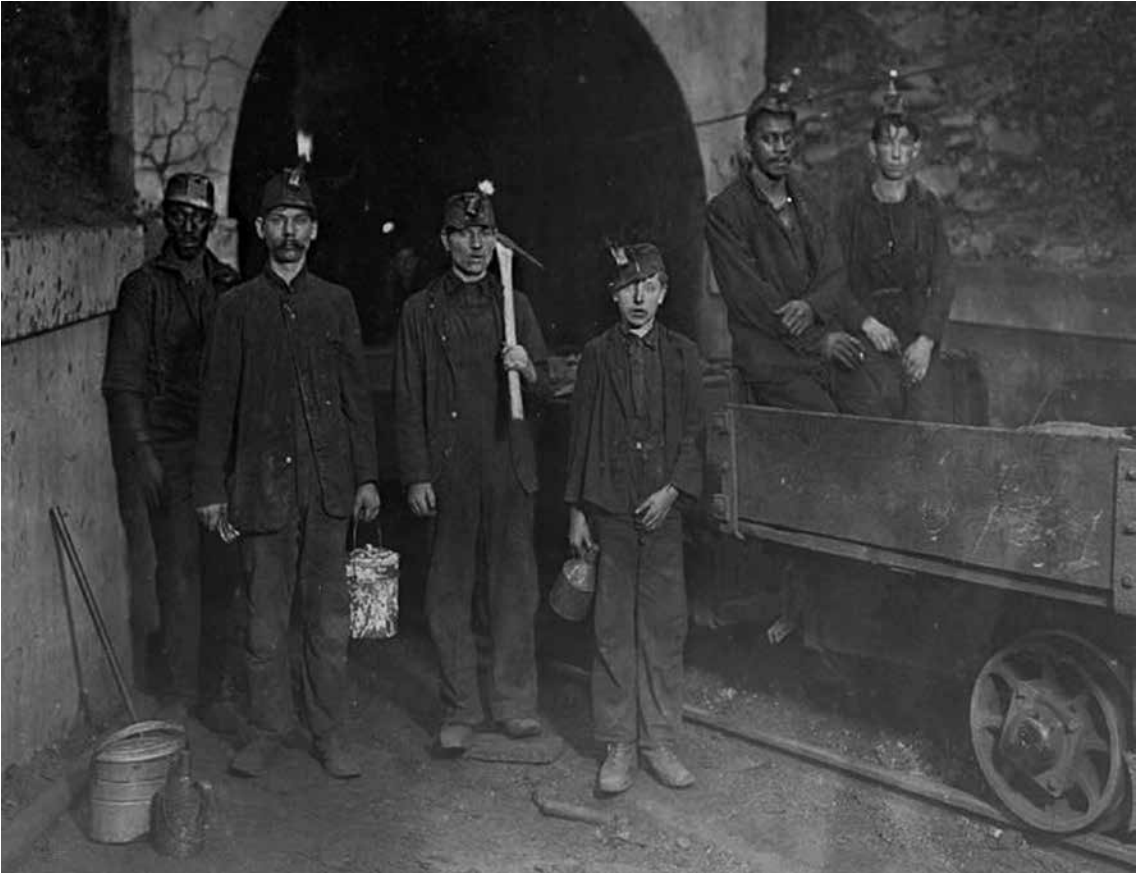
Serving the working class, not the politicians

The slogan of community over competition emerged from our committee meetings and became a refrain at this year’s tournament. As in past years the food provided, the referee stipends, and the music were all provided due to the independent fundraising and leadership of the working class. The families who lost their loved ones have been wooed and courted by local elected officials to join this or that opportunist operation.

The families led the largest Manhattan demonstration in the wake of the killing of George Floyd. The “NO” from these women to the liberal political establishment has been steadfast. Their sense of justice—that no other family ought to ever suffer what they have—can never be satisfied by any of these lying, self-serving, petty, conniving, hack Democratic Party politicians. Only communism can meet this standard of justice and our rededication this year to that fight was marked at a touching memorial in the last hour of the tournament. Onward!🇵🇸

100th Anniversary of the Battle of Blair Mountain

Multiracial unity must march on



Black and white miners standing in front of a West Virginia Coal Mine circa 1900. As true today as it was then, multiracial unity is the bosses achilles heel, and one of our sharpest weapons in the struggle against capitalism.

One hundred years ago, August to September 1921, the world witnessed the largest armed rebellion of workers in U.S. history since the Civil War: the Battle of Blair Mountain. It was a great example of multiracial unity between Black and white miners.

Ten thousand armed coal miners marched from Charleston, West Virginia, 70 miles south to Blair Mountain, Logan County, West Virginia, to destroy the unjust system that had taken their health, their homes, and many of their lives. During the battle, striking white workers, partly inspired by the new workers’ state, the Soviet Union, joined with Black and immigrant workers. While the immigrant workers were originally sent to break the strike. The multiracial miners foiled the bosses plans by organizing these workers and turning the strike into a worker’s army.

The U.S. bosses, determined to crush armed insurrection, deployed bombers armed with gas and bombs left over from World War I, some of which were captured by the workers’ army. The workers faced the U.S. army, 3,000 local deputies, police, gunmen and the State Militia.

This march was the miners’ immediate reac-

tion to the August 21, 1921, murder of two of their own by the coal bosses’ hired gunmen on the steps of the McDowell County courthouse. These killings had followed years of unionizing attempts and guerrilla warfare in the West Virginia coal fields the previous winter.

Within 72 hours, 7,000 armed miners assembled outside Charleston and told the State government that they were going to “open up” Logan County for unionization and “blow it away.” On August 24, the miners’ multiracial army, white and Black, citizen and immigrant, began the 70-mile march to Logan.

As the miners made their way from town to town, their ranks swelled.” By the time they reached Blair Mountain, they were 10,000 strong. The miners were a “fully-trained, highly disciplined army ... All the officers were World War I veterans ...

They taught the miners troop movements [and] flank formations. They formed squadrons.

The original...rednecks’

The white workers, indicating their pro-working class politics over the bosses’ racism, wore red bandanas around their necks, earning the insult “redneck” by the capitalist media (Appalachian Magazine, 5/23/16).

In the bosses’ attempts to rewrite history and erase multiracial unity, it was after Blair Mountain that the “redneck” term became, in dictionaries and media, obscured and synonymous with “cracker” (originally, a child of a convict) and “hill-billy” (originally, extremely poor, often interracial, whites living in the Appalachian mountains and outside the norms of southern society).

This multiracial workers’ army were the original “rednecks.” Perhaps in the future we should refer to racists in the South the same way we describe them anywhere in the world, simply as “racists.”

Matewan

The events that led up to the outbreak of this strike and the battle are depicted in the 1987 film “Matewan.” The film shows the miners fighting the bosses’ goons from the Baldwin-Felts detective agency and killing some of them.

But the main strength of the film is its realistic depiction of the militant multi-racial unity of the miners.

The key political struggle Kenehan [union organizer]wages in the first part of the movie is the one against racism. He attacks the racism of some of the miners and calls for organizing the Black and Italian workers into the union. ‘Few Clothes’ John, leader of the Black miners, also has an anti-racist position. There is a great showdown at the mine entrance, under the guns of the company thugs, as the miners stand all together; Blacks, white, and Italian. They march and sign ‘Avanti Popolo’ (CHALLENGE, 10/21/87).

The miners lose in the end, as they did in real life. They have no communist party to build for a revolutionary overthrow of the bosses. In the film as in reality the bosses, the goons, and the courts defeat the miners in the end.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to be the heir of this legacy of multiracial unity. With the sharpening attacks on the international working class and growing threat of all out inter-imperialist wars looming, our understanding of history is more important than ever as workers from every part of the working class seek out answers that only a new international communist movement can provide.🇵🇸

The quotes in this article are drawn from a video production of West Virginia Public Broadcasting, entitled Even the Heavens Weep—The West Virginia Mine Wars.

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Would the miners think we were crazy?

When we flew to Alabama to support striking coal miners at the Warrior Met Coal Company, I was unsure what to expect. In addition to virtually ignoring the strike, national media had spent years depicting "red-state America" as a hopeless bastion of reactionary bigotry. Would the miners welcome support from communist New Yorkers? Would they think we were crazy? Would they be angry?

The response was extraordinary—we were welcomed, and so was our message. (There were exceptions, but they merely proved the rule.) The miners, feeling isolated by the national media's conspiracy of silence, were gratified to have support from outsiders.

They spoke to us about the life-threatening hazards miners face daily, and management's total disregard for their well-being. One 24-year-old worker had lost feeling in two of his fingers due to job-related injuries. Once, when he'd come to his manager with a hurt hand, the manager had checked the inside of his glove for blood to make sure he was being truthful.

Facing death on the job has given these miners a tremendous bond. This is what made them receptive to our message—that the world should be run by, and for, workers. The power of solidarity has kept them alive on a daily basis, and empowered them to demand more from their bosses. (And the miners hadn't bought into the Trump narrative of immigrants stealing good jobs from Americans. They expressed sympathy for exploited immigrant workers.) Everywhere we went, we could see that revolutionary

class consciousness was almost there.

★★★★★

Hammer, Hoe, and Hum: Alabama's workers still fighting capitalism

The recent CHALLENGE article discussing our Party's work with miners in Alabama reminded me of how much workers in Alabama have had to and continue to endure in recent history. It often seems that in Alabama, workers have had to deal with the consequences of U.S. capitalism in more brutal ways than workers in other states.

Alabama has been in the news recently due to a failed bid to organize Amazon workers. And other news articles recently noted that more people in Alabama died than were born in 2020 due to the bosses' lack of a response to the Covid-19 crisis. This is more bad news for a state that already deals with some of the highest poverty rates and lowest education rates in the country.

The articles about our comrades' visit to show support to workers in Alabama coincided with our club's reading of early chapters from *Hammer and Hoe* by Robin D.G. Kelley.

All of the recent Alabama news reminds me of a few key lessons:

★The bosses focus on separating workers by race and class is rooted in their goal to eliminate the idea of workers coming together to do anything empowering. That's why Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has always and will continue to prioritize worker solidarity! Beware of the Black bourgeoisie's attempts to encourage Black workers not to union-

ize or stand together against the system. A Black capitalist is still a capitalist! In *Hammer and Hoe*, Kelley describes the way wealthier Black people and the NAACP sought to dampen union struggles in the early 1920's and 30's and instead, promoted supporting Black business as the solution to the workers' problems. Sound familiar?

★The U.S. has focused so intently on reducing the power of unions in an effort to reduce the power of workers and combat communism.

★The working class' experience dealing with capitalist abuse has the potential to create new leadership within the working class. Kelley references workers who became Alabama Communist Party leaders like Angelo Herndon, Estelle Milner and Al Murphy - all who joined the Party due to their own experiences dealing with the racist system in the South and throughout the U.S.

While bad news about the situation for workers in Alabama abounds, communists have and will continue to be there to support workers as shown through the history discussed in *Hammer and Hoe* and in the Party's more recent work supporting miners in Brookfield.

There are many more lessons to learn beyond the four described above, but the final point is the most important: it is up to us, Progressive Labor Party, to help make clear the abuses of capitalism and to show our base that we have been and will always be there to help workers create a better world for the international working class.

★★★★★

Alabama miners call out bosses' dictatorship

Continued from page 4

Health insurance was cut with miners paying 20 percent of the bill after paying deductibles up to \$1,500. Sick time ceased to exist; doctors' notes were declared invalid.

Miners are allowed four disciplinary write-ups per year and miners have received write-ups for attending funerals, cancer treatment, spouses' miscarriages, and being injured in car accidents. Foremen taking orders from Warrior Met COO Jack Richardson override safety rights, including forcing the miners to work through Covid-19, infections and all.

The miners call this a "dictatorship," and they're more right than they know. This is what capitalist dictatorship looks like, and what all workers have in store if we fail to organize for communist revolution.

Seeing their divorce rates, alcoholism and depression rising, the miners led the working class by example and hit back against the latest contract with a strike!

"Intelligence" means fight back

When the UMW bargaining team recently presented a deal for far less than the old contract, the miners voted it down by 98 percent, cursing and threatening the union negotiator for good measure. Since the strike, miners have faced one court injunction after another,



140 of Alabama's 250 state troopers have been sent against them, and they've been shot at and run over by scabs, all in a Republican-run state. Meanwhile the Democrat-run National Labor Relations Board just ruled there is "insufficient evidence" of intimidation.

The Warrior Met mine is the largest mine in Alabama and one of the largest single mines in the U.S., with 1,100 miners. Warrior Met CEO Walt Sellers has been smashing union-run mines for years in West Virginia, Kentucky and Utah. The bosses' rampage ground to a halt for now in Alabama. As winter approaches the struggle is at a crossroads and needs solidarity to continue. The bosses hope to starve out the strike and decertify the UMW, re-opening the mine as a scab mine.

Against the capitalist class' dictatorship and state, especially the police, Klan, union misleaders and fake leftists, miners exercise plenty of the "intelligence" needed for our entire class to run the world.

"Winning" means communist revolution

Breaking the bosses' laws and stopping the scabs at all costs is paramount. It will mean miners must stand up against some of their union misleaders. As one Black miner warned PLP, "the bosses and union leaders are threatened by these ideas." Black workers know better than all workers how far bosses will go defending their state after centuries of legal racism and are key leaders for their white sisters and brothers.

Slavery was legal until Black-led rebellions and the Civil War ended it. Strikes were illegal until workers violently won them in armed struggle. Workers' power will always be illegal in this racist capitalist system, and it will take masses of communist-led workers overthrowing capitalism with communist revolution to end the bosses' dictatorship.

We invite the miners, railroad workers and Amazon workers to join PLP and lead the way smashing this capitalist system once and for all!👊

GLOSSARY COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

History of Fordham

Antiracist, anti-imperialist worker-student unity

52 years ago this fall, students at Fordham University in The Bronx, New York seized the administration building and demanded throwing the U.S. military's ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) off campus. This student occupation was led by the Worker-Student Alliance faction of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and was a part of the worldwide anti-imperialist struggle involving many millions against U.S. imperialism.

Knowing that reform organizations like SDS will never truly liberate the working class, the key force behind this worker-student alliance, was the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party (PLP). We continue to organize and fight back against racism to this day. The lessons learned by the inspiring fightback at Fordham are a manual for students and workers everywhere organizing to take student-worker unity all the way to communist revolution!

Fordham SDS: baptism through struggle

Fordham is a Catholic school and had traditionally been a conservative place, with an openly fascist student group in the 1930s supporting fascists during the Spanish Civil War. By the mid-60s, it became more liberal, with Fordham students picketing the nearby Woolworths department store for supporting racial segregation in the U.S. south.

Fordham SDS was started in 1965/66 and was militant from the start. By 1968, the Fordham chapter had become influenced by the PLP-led Worker Student Alliance faction of SDS. Increasingly larger and more forceful demonstrations during the next two years opposed Navy recruiters and Dow Chemical, makers of the horrible weapon napalm (jellied gasoline) which was used by the U.S. military against the Vietnamese. The action against Dow Chemical involved hundreds of students shoving campus guards and recruiters with their table, chairs and literature down the hall and down flights of stairs. We also demonstrated against Marine recruiters. For years, we held many forums, workshops and had many late-night conversations in the dorms.

Students ignite rebellion within U.S. imperialism

ROTC, which trains college students to become junior officers in the military, is an integral part of the U.S. military's war machine. The sight of cadets marching around the college grounds was juxtaposed to the horrors being imposed on the Vietnamese workers we saw on TV every night. Among



the thousands of students at Fordham, anger and anti-imperialist solidarity with the Vietnamese workers combined with militant political leadership finally boiled over.

On November 12, 1969, hundreds of students smashed into the administration building and kicked out the president and his flunkies. Barricades were built against the doors with file cabinets as student government representatives tried to negotiate our surrender of the building. Then the administration launched the beefed-up Campus Guards against our barricades. For several hours we fought them off. Late in the evening, we learned that the administration had called in the NYPD. We decided to fight our way out and the best exit seemed to be a window onto the porch. More than 60 of us burst out into a wild melee of at least 20 fist fights going on with the guards outside. Meanwhile, hundreds of students streamed out of the dorms to support and protect us. Several students were grabbed and handed over to the NYPD when they arrived. One was freed by the demonstrators. We then marched up the avenue about a half a mile to the police precinct where the students were being held, demanding their release. We were met by

a large contingent of a heavily armed Patrol Force and were forced to retreat.

Mass base defends students, exposes bosses

26 students were eventually charged, and all but five took a plea deal. Those who didn't included two members of PLP, and another Worker Student Alliance student. Over the next several months we organized against the bosses' legal system, turning the case around, and exposing the role of the bosses' judicial system within the capitalist state. Finally, because of mass support, the students involved were given a slap on the wrist.

The following spring, we continued the fight against ROTC and continued building a strong campus Worker Student Alliance movement. We especially organized support for the cafeteria workers and helped them fight to prevent their being screwed by a new sub-contractor.

Build a base in the working class

Over the past 20 years, we have had several reunions from those days. The largest was two years ago, on the 50th anniversary, when almost 40 participants and friends reunited near Fordham. Some of these attendees became lifelong communists.

The fightback at Fordham shows the power of communist ideas when grasped by masses of students and workers. Against a worldwide backdrop of millions of workers, hundreds at Fordham demonstrated their willingness to fight back against imperialism and support the occupation. Despite the bosses using their state power and police to end it, this mass base followed the students' militant leadership and defended them in the aftermath, and many remain committed to antiracist, anti-imperialist struggle decades later.

The documentary Fordham SDS was made from film footage taken during the November 12 takeover by a brave comrade who was also a filmmaker, while another brave comrade smuggled the footage out of the building. This documentary is a class in student-worker organizing. As the bosses of the U.S., China and Russia look to today's youth as cannon fodder for World War III, PLP continues building student-worker unity to smash this entire imperialist system with communist revolution once and for all.✊

To view the documentary about the Fordham SDS struggle: www.fordhamsds.org.



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Abbreviations

NYT= New York Times

Worst economy since the Great Depression

Shadowstats.com, 6/20—Despite the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reporting... the U.S. Economy still was not close to recovering from its pandemic-driven collapse. May payroll employment gained an adjusted 559,000 jobs (586,000 net of revisions) with headline U-3 Unemployment dropping from 6.09% to 5.79%. Both headline measures of Labor conditions were within reasonable bounds of consensus expectations, yet, the headline story did not foreshadow imminent economic recovery.

The decline in seasonally adjusted May 2021 Payroll Employment against its February 2020 pre-pandemic peak was 5.0% (-5.0%), narrowed from 5.4% (-5.4%) in April 2021, otherwise still the weakest showing of the Post-World War II Era, outside of the pandemic. Payroll employment is a fundamental measure of broad economic activity, and the current measures of payroll decline suggest that the broad U.S. economy remains in depression, far from recovering pre-pandemic conditions....Effectively this is the worst economic downturn since before World War II—since the Great Depression.

Big Fascists fund Egypt's terrorist bosses

Mada Masr, 9/14—Around 10 percent of the \$1.3 billion that the United States [annually] pays to Egypt in security aid is to be conditioned on Cairo

making changes in two human rights cases... However, the amount being conditioned on improvements in the two specific files is less than was withheld under the government of President Joe Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, despite Biden stating before he won the presidency that he would issue "no more blank checks for Trump's 'favorite dictator'"

The US has paid military aid to Egypt since 1946, with the amount paid increasing significantly after Egypt and Israel reached a peace treaty in 1979. The amount is deposited in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York from which it is transferred to a trust fund at the Treasury Department and then used to procure weapons from US defense contractors.

Inflation attacks workers in Brazil

Folha de São Paulo, 9/9—[Brazil's] official inflation rate, measured by the IPCA [National Index of Consumer Prices] reached the highest rate...in 21 years and, as a result, reached double digits.... In 12 months, inflation is above 10% in 8 of the 16 capitals or metropolitan areas surveyed. The highest rate until August, 12.08%, was registered in Curitiba. In the capital of Paraná, the greatest increase among all products and services was in transportation: 20.06%....

The rise of the IPCA took shape throughout the pandemic. At first, there was a spike in food prices and then a rise in fuel prices. The rise of the dollar, lower inventories and advances in commodi-

ties help explain the behavior of prices...the water crisis also began to threaten the control of inflation this year. The scarcity of rain forced the activation of thermal power plants, increasing the costs of generating electricity....

According to the vice president of Abras (Brazilian Association of Supermarkets), Marcio Milan, price increases have been observed for at least four months mainly in items such as rice, beans, powdered coffee, sugar, chicken and eggs....

France and China denounce AUKUS deal

Foreign Policy, 9/17—The U.S. decision to jump ahead of France in providing Australia with new nuclear powered submarines as part of a new trilateral so-called AUKUS defense pact has caused outrage in Paris and may have longer term effects that drive the United States and Europe further apart when it comes to China policy. France lost out on a deal worth \$55 billion. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian stated it reinforced "the need to make the issue of European strategic autonomy loud and clear." EU foreign-policy chief Josep Borrell said the AUKUS deal means the European Union must "exist for ourselves, since the others exist for themselves." The Chinese state-run Global Times said the move makes Australian troops "most likely to be the first batch of Western soldiers to waste their lives in the South China Sea."

CONCENTRATION CAMPS AT THE BORDER SMASH ALL BORDERS

The swell of workers looking to enter the U.S. and take refuge below the international bridge in Del Rio, Texas has grown to more than 12,000 people (CNN.com 9/20). They are suffering from overcrowding, extreme heat, illness, lack of food and unsanitary conditions. The chaos of capitalism in crisis forces workers to flee for survival, and makes our lives ever more disposable. On both sides of the border workers suffer the brutality and incompetence of capitalism along with racism and a general disregard for the lives of workers. The terrifying photo of a border patrolman on horseback, whipping a rope while chasing down a Black worker from Haiti, along with the miserable conditions in the camps, evokes images of slavery and fascist internment. Only communism, a system based on the needs of the international working class, can abolish borders, and organize the world for the good of the masses of workers.

The migrant camp of Reynosa in Tamaulipas, Mexico across from Hidalgo, Texas, concentrates two to five thousand people with only 18 portable toilets. Workers are charged 10 pesos to use the showers and sinks (NYT, 8/30). The situation in Tijuana is more of the same. The workers in camps there have denounced the overcrowding and violence reporting extortion, theft, and kidnapping. Many have been sent back from the U.S. with their asylum paperwork in plastic envelopes. The missing laces in their shoes reveal their time at a deportation center making them easy marks for criminals who take them to “safe houses” until their relatives in the U.S. pay sums of up to \$2,000 for their release (hrw.org, 6/2/2020). Without question, these conditions are inhumane.

Capitalism is criminal and anti-worker whether its lackeys are openly fascist and anti-immigrant like Donald Trump or liberals like Joe Biden or Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO). Essentially, the increasingly fascist policies of capitalism in crisis condemn millions to die in poverty trying to cross the bosses borders.

The current situation at the border between Mexico and the U.S. began with an agreement between Trump and AMLO at the end of 2018. The government in Mexico agreed to the “Remain in Mexico” plan under pressure of a U.S. threat

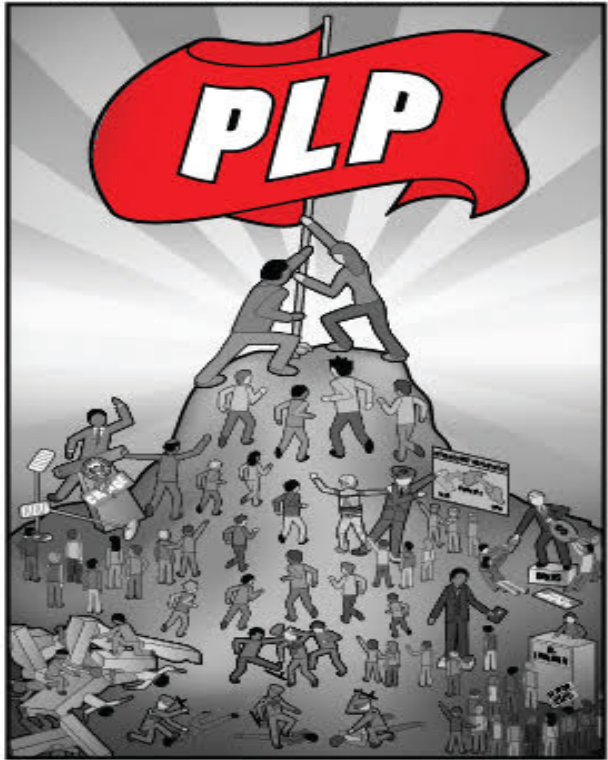
to increase taxes on goods imported from Mexico. Since then, Mexico agreed that workers from countries other than Mexico who had been stopped crossing the border between the U.S. and Mexico would wait in Mexico while the U.S. courts evaluated their asylum petitions.

While Trump built support with his base by pushing anti-immigrant policies and the Democrats built support from their base by attacking Trump, the crisis of capitalism – exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the paralyzing divisions within the ruling class – has intensified. Even when businesses in the U.S. claim to lack workers and workers are traveling thousands of miles in search of employment, the capitalist class is incapable of overcoming their internal divisions even to satisfy their own interests, let alone the needs of the working class.

The horrors that migrant workers are facing are a consequence of the crisis of capitalism and a sign of fascism—the form that capitalism in crisis takes. The concentration of thousands of workers condemned to live and die in detention camps is reminiscent of fascism in the past and a glimpse of the future under this system. No capitalist government or political party can guarantee the needs of the working class. The situation facing workers at the border shows that in the face of crisis, capitalism resorts to fascism. Workers become disposable, left to live or die in squalor.

It is only because of working class solidarity that workers in the camps receive any support in the form of needed water and food, clothes, mattresses, medicine and tents big enough only to provide some protection from the rain and cold nights. Only the power of the working class, organized in a fight for communism will ever be able to provide for workers of the world.✊

**CAPITALISM
BREEDS SEXISM
RACISM
& IMPERIALISM!**



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